

**PORTLAND HARBOR CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

April 16, 2002, 7-9 p.m.

Oregon Dept. of Human Services, 800 NE Oregon St, Portland

MJ Bey, League of Women Voters of Columbia Region  
Jacque Calder, Citizen  
Kim Cox, DEQ  
Steve Gunther, Citizen  
Jane Haley, Oregon Center for Environmental Health  
(b) (6) Citizen  
Laura Hunter, Willamette Riverkeeper  
Joe Keating, Oregon Center for Environmental Health  
Rhett Lawrence, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group  
Libby McCulley, Willamette Riverkeeper  
Kevin Odell, Environmental Justice Action Group  
(b) (6) , Citizen  
Janice Panichello, Oregon Department of Human Services  
Xander Patterson, E. Mult. SWCD, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Pacific Green Party  
Robin Plance, St. John's Neighborhood Association  
Jim Robison, Citizen  
Dorothy Shoemaker, Sierra Club  
Barbara Smith, Lower Willamette Group  
Judy Smith, EPA  
Regina Skarzinskas, Toxicologist, Willamette Riverkeeper  
David Stone, Oregon Department of Human Services  
Travis Williams, Willamette Riverkeeper  
(b) (6) Citizen

**USEPA SF**



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**GUEST SPEAKER: BJ CUMMINGS, DUWAMISH CAG**

The Duwamish site was listed on September 13, 2001 and is a 5-6 mile long stretch of river which is similar to the Willamette in complexity. The site runs through South Seattle which is largely a low income, racially diverse neighborhood. There are a number of parties involved in the Superfund process including the tribes, environmental groups, environmental justice groups, neighborhood groups, business interests, etc. Of the six groups involved in the formation of the CAG, two participating groups serve as the conduit for funding for the group. One group got the \$50,000 TAG from the EPA. Another group got \$60,000 in state money to fund public participation. The group's funding was obtained prior to actual listing. The group also made the decision to not be constrained by limitations of government funding and they chose to seek out private funds for advocacy. Thus far, they have received \$42,000 in private money.

BJ has been serving as the coordinator of the CAG. In addition to the original six members, seats were created for additional CAG community members who were identified by members of the CAG. The total voting membership is 12 and everybody has equal representation. Two newest members: WA Toxics Coalition, Georgetown Community Council.

The focus of the group has been on obtaining and reviewing every study. Because the group was formed early, they have had a voice in the structure of the studies rather than just reacting to what is in the study once it is done. They have also spent a lot of time on educating the community. They

developed a community presentation and have visited community groups, renters and homeowners associations, church groups, and others. All materials are being translated to make them accessible to the community – 7 languages in all. They will be putting together larger community forums as documents become available.

The CAG did not form a 501(c)(3). They didn't want the CAG to take on an institutional life of its own separate from the founding members. Once the PRPs have been determined, they will have to either step down from the CAG or at least recuse themselves from voting. The CAG is also working to make sure small businesses are being treated fairly.

Questions:

- ✓ How much power do you have over the process? Their experience has been very good, both Dept. of Ecology and EPA project managers are extremely committed to public outreach and involvement. Their comments have made significant changes in several documents.
- ✓ What kind of support does TAG Group provide? Technical advisor shares all material with the group. CAG decides what to provide feedback on.
- ✓ Are you part time or full time? It fluctuates. She came on as a private consultant as group coordinator. She is paid by one of the government grants.  
The CAG work plan was approved by the group in the in the beginning. They have also had volunteers and interns who have been working on Superfund issues.
- ✓ How does the CAG make decisions? A simple majority voting structure was established in the event that they needed it. They always strive for consensus.
- ✓ Do the EPA and State attend meetings? They are invited on an as-needed basis. The meetings are open to the public. CAG helps do outreach for EPA and State meetings. CAG also hosts own community forums.
- ✓ Who facilitates CAG meetings? BJ facilitates the meetings.
- ✓ What decisions have been made so far? Decisions thus far have included work plan, comments, etc.
- ✓ Do the groups involved work on other aspects of the Superfund or do they work primarily through the CAG? All of the groups have something else besides Superfund on the river. Most of the groups do most or all of the Superfund work within the CAG.
- ✓ What types of education is the CAG doing? Community briefings, fact sheet, will be doing community forums (they are still in pre-document review stage). They have also done two mailings of about 7,000. They are developing a power point presentation to take to , public meetings, churches, councils, etc. They are working on outreach to different immigrant groups, particularly the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. They are still working on getting the materials translated. Spanish speaking communities have been more involved and they will be doing presentations in Spanish soon. Native American tribes and African American groups have been involved from the get-go.
- ✓ At what point does the CAG see the documents? The group has been reviewing study design for conducting the risk analysis. They review documents when they go from PRPs to agencies, before they are available to the public.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The group reviewed the Duwamish mission statement. There was discussion of accepting the Duwamish mission statement, however it was apparent that the group wanted to focus more on community, participation, fish and wildlife, restoration, use of the river and the surrounding area, human health, and other key factors. There was much discussion of *enriching* the area for human use and habitat for fish and wildlife. The group also discussed the importance of having the mission statement accepted by the community. Discussion focused on how much the mission statement

should reflect the goals of the Superfund cleanup versus the group doing work to facilitate the goal of the Superfund cleanup. A concern about the need to provide financial oversight was also raised. This discussion flushed out the following points:

- ✓ Something clearer or more ambitious than the Duwamish mission statement.
- ✓ Focus on restoring the river to a place that is usable by the community and that provides viable habitat for fish and wildlife.
- ✓ Focus on getting our land back.
- ✓ The need for community acceptance and participation.

After considering these points and wordsmithing several drafts, the group came up with a mission statement they felt included both the goals of the Superfund Cleanup as well as the goals of the CAG, reflected all of the key points and would be accepted by the community.

**MISSION STATEMENT: To ensure a Portland Harbor Cleanup that restores, enriches, and protects the environment for fish, wildlife, human health, and recreation, through community participation.**

The mission statement was accepted unanimously.

#### **ORGANIZATION:**

How do we get a good cross section of the community? Members of the St. Johns, Cathedral Park, and University Neighborhood Associations were in attendance. Linnton Neighborhood Association, Northwest Industrial Group should also be at the table. People would like to see the CAG inclusive rather than exclusive but want to draw the line at PRPs. Some people would rather not set an initial number of members. Instead, once the desired group is identified and established, the CAG can, by consensus, add additional members to the group. Include people who are affected – people who fish (Asian and Pacific Islander, Eastern European, Latino, African American). The group also should include non-profit environmental and environmental justice groups, neighborhood groups and students. Possibly a business interest not directly associated with the PRPs? The group will need to actively go out and get those people involved.

#### **NAME:**

**Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group.**

The name of the group was accepted unanimously.

#### **OTHER ITEMS:**

- ✓ Judy recommended that the group have an agenda item at the next meeting to consider the information needs of the group, who they would like to have as speaker, etc.
- ✓ Willamette Riverkeeper will establish a listserv for Portland Harbor CAG.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, May 8, 2002, 7-9 p.m., Same Location: 800 NE Oregon St.